

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Room 445, State Capitol
February 14, 2013

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Vice Chair
Sen. Lyle Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Daniel Thatcher
Sen. Steve Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Francis Gibson
Rep. Steve Handy
Rep. Mike S. Kennedy
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Kraig Powell

Members Excused:

Sen. Stuart Adams

Staff Present:

Mr. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Thomas E. Young, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Wendy Hill, Secretary

A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov. A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

1. K-3 Reading Improvement Program

Dr. Brenda Hales, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education spoke of the K-3 reading program and the value of literacy. A report was distributed to the Subcommittee prepared by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). Every Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to test the reading skills of students using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Next. The USOE plans to establish a standard goal for the state. Over the years, student enrollment has increased but not funding for this program. This program needs

more Professional Development for teachers. Last year, 38 percent of students received reading intervention. Each LEA has the option to use adaptive learning technology. The at-risk student population has grown significantly. In school year 2012 the third grade reading proficiency rate was 79 percent.

Co-Chair Stephenson questioned the proficiency level reflected in the third grade English Language Arts score. Dr. Hales said there are many different reading tests and each has distinct criteria. Co-Chair Stephenson said the at-risk population has shown improvement but not third graders as a whole and funds have been added for reading improvement. Rep. Nielson commented on the complexity of developing tests and asked about the program distribution to schools. Dr. Hales said comparable data will be available in the future because of standardization of testing. Rep. Christensen commented no LEA met the goal of 100 percent and questioned the measuring standard. Dr. Hales said help is available from USOE for low performing schools. Rep. Christensen said some teachers encounter challenging populations and they may not measure up to the standard. Rep. Briscoe asked if the DIBELS and the Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) were the same. Dr. Hales said no but they are compatible. Rep. Briscoe said class size is a factor in achievement score. Sen. Jones asked if the goal of 90 percent proficiency in third grade was realistic and how to achieve it. Dr. Hales said it is possible to achieve it but it would require additional resources. Sen. Urquhart speculated that Imagine Learning was responsible for the improvement of proficiency with the ethnic population. Dr. Hales said these groups had big gains because of their starting point.

2. University of Utah Reading Clinic

Dr. Kathleen J. Brown, Director, University of Utah Reading Clinic, spoke to the committee about the University of Utah Reading Clinic. She asked for a \$125,000 increase in funding. The clinic provides intervention services for children with basic and severe reading difficulties and Professional Development for educators.

Rep. Kennedy asked if it was feasible to use virtual technology for intervention. Dr. Brown said she was deliberating the prospect. He asked if her lectures were available on the internet. Dr. Brown said www.uurc.org has many free materials for the public.

Sen. Jones recognized former Senator Karen Morgan. She commented on the amount Dr. Brown requested.

3. Budget Review: Fine Arts Outreach

Mr. Leishman said the Fine Arts Education Outreach program assists Utah's professional art organizations teaching opportunities in public schools. Professional organizations match state revenues to support and enhance the delivery of art education through demonstrations, performances, presentations, and educational activities. The Professional Outreach Program in the School (POPS) includes Utah Symphony, Utah Opera, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Repertory Dance Theatre, Children's Dance Theatre, Ballet West, Springville Museum of Art, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Remaining funding provides an arts subsidy to Artistic Resource for Teachers and Students (A.R.T.S.) Inc.

Rep. Lifferth asked where the matching funds originate. Mr. Leishman said funds come from private grants.

Mr. Brent Haymond, Representative, POPS addressed the Subcommittee. He recognized Shirley Ririe and other members of POPS.

Ms. Hilary Hahn, Development Manager, Education & Community Outreach, Utah Symphony/Utah Opera, thanked the Subcommittee for their support. POPS provides lesson plans and teacher development opportunities. They partner with the USOE to align their teaching plans with the state's core standards. Last year, 459,000 students participated in the POPS program. POPS furnished matching funds of over \$4.9 million. She requested \$150,000 in one-time money and \$500,000 in on-going.

Co-Chair Stephenson commented on the uniqueness of the POPS and iSEE programs throughout the nation and thanked them for their work. Rep. Eliason thanked POPS for their work, he asked about the difference in costs per visit, per student between the various organizations. Mr. Haymond said costs vary to produce the event. Rep. Moss thanked the arts organizations for their contributions to public education. Sen. Jones declared a conflict of interest as a board member of the Utah Symphony/Utah Opera. She commented on the importance of the arts on academic development and character development. Rep. Lifferth asked how POPS includes rural schools. Ms. Jessica Weiss, Associate Curator of Education and Art, Springville Museum of Art, said POPS is committed to serving schools statewide through outreach programs. Rep. Lifferth asked about transportation costs. Mr. Leishman said districts pay for the cost of transporting students to a venue. Grants cover the costs of transporting POPS organizations to the schools. Rep. Gibson noted the Springville Museum of Art is in his district, and said studies show education in the arts encourages cognitive development.

4. IT Academy

Mr. Scott Kennedy, Microsoft U.S. Education Team, spoke about the IT Academy in Utah. After passing H.B. 514 last year, USOE, Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) and Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) partnered with Microsoft to implement the IT Academy to teach students skills needed in today's workforce. In Utah currently, there are about 1900 open jobs that require some Microsoft skills. Over 800 certifications have been awarded to students, teachers and staff at a reduced cost found in a regular setting. He requested an expansion of the on-going appropriation.

Rep. Eliason commented on the importance of the program. Rep. Briscoe asked for clarification on the number of students enrolled in the program. Mr. Kennedy said \$250,000 was appropriated last year.

Ms. Mary Shumway, State Career and Technical Education Director, Utah State Office of Education has worked with Microsoft to implement this rigorous program. USOE is pleased with the partnership.

Co-Chair Stephenson said Career and Technical Education (CTE) is extremely important.

5. Pro Start

Ms. Melva Sine, President, Utah Restaurant Association discussed Pro Start, the school to career high school program. Pro Start is a two year program that involves 1,200 students in 52 high schools. She requested \$350,000 in total appropriation. Mr. Victor Perez, student, Pro Start, said the class helped him earn a \$10,000 scholarship and an internship. Ms. Monica Cardenas, student, Pro Start, said the program has opened up opportunities for employment.

Rep. Gibson supports Pro Start. Rep. Briscoe commented on the number of good programs offered to high school students today. Ms. Sine said on March 7, there will be an all-day Pro Start competition in the rotunda.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Madsen and Sen. Thatcher absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Minutes were reported by Ms. Wendy Hill, Senate Secretary

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair